

REMARKS

The claims have been amended as to form, to take care of the objections raised in the Official Action.

The claims have also been amended so as to emphasize their patentable subject matter. Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as anticipated by or unpatentable over SQUICCIARINI, alone or in view of ANDREWS et al. or TREECE et al., or in view of TAKAOKA et al. or WEGENG et al.

The rejection falls down on SQUICCIARINI.

According to the present invention, the PET particles, in whatever form (as actual articles, or as granules or particles of the material) are placed directly into the desorption cell. The cell is scavenged with air, and the sample is heated in the cell. The cell is pressurized, and then a loop is charged with gas from the cell, which is transferred from the cell to a gas chromatography, and then to an acetaldehyde detector.

This is a direct method, in which the sample itself is placed in the heating cell.

The present invention is thus in sharp contrast to the prior art, in which acetaldehyde is determined in a chemical laboratory using an analytical system comprised by a static sampler, in combination with a gas chromatograph. The sample must be previously ground cryogenically, sifted and weighed, and

moreover the preparation of the reference acetaldehyde solution requires laboratory personnel and methods, such as titrations and preparations of reference solutions.

Thus, in SQUICCIARDINI, which is typical of the prior art, the cell 31 receives tubes or vials that have been sealed through a ring carrying a pierceable septum. Then, the septum is perforated by a needle, in order to transfer the gas to be analyzed into the cell.

In sharp contrast to SQUICCIARDINI, according to the present invention, it is not necessary to prepare the tubes within the gas to be analyzed. It is sufficient to put the preforms or the other samples of PET directly into the cell.

The secondary references may teach the secondary features for which they were applied; but as none of them overcomes the deficiencies of SQUICCIARDINI as pointed out above, it is not believed to be necessary to discuss the secondary references in detail at this time.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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